

Summary of Meeting #1 (7/9/2014)

Dr. Gahunia, DHMH Chief Medical Officer, reviewed goals and objectives of the workgroup, framed the issue, shared a road map for the upcoming meetings, and asked for an update from the Maryland Occupational Safety and Health (MOSH), a group within the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation. Draft guidelines from MOSH will be available in August for comments.

Mission of Workgroup:

- Study appropriate national safety standards for handling, preparing and administering of chemotherapy, biologic therapy, supportive care medication, rheumatology therapy, or any other therapy in the treatment of cancer, a rheumatology condition, or a blood condition.
- Develop a consensus recommendation for the Secretary on appropriate safety standards.

Members of Workgroup:

Group represented include: Board of Physicians, Board of Pharmacy, Maryland Society for Health-System Pharmacy (MSHP), Maryland Chapter of Oncology Nursing Society, MOSH, Rheumatologist, Med-Chi, Oncologists (3), Maryland Clinical Oncology Society.

Safety Standards Introduced to the Workgroup:

- ASCO-ONS Standards for Safe Chemotherapy Administration (2013 update)
- ASHP Guidelines on Handling Hazardous Drugs
- CDC Basic Infection Control and Prevention Plan for Outpatient Oncology Settings
- NIOSH Preventing Occupational Exposure to Hazardous Drugs in Health Care Settings

Next Meeting (8/6/2014):

- NIOSH to present on the issue of hazardous drug handling from their perspective, the key parts of the NIOSH Alert, engineering control requirements, and the science behind medical surveillance.
- Board of Pharmacy, Board of Physicians, and MSHP to present and address how other states are regulating outpatient oncology and rheumatology practices in the three areas discussed during meeting one (infection control, potency, and the hazardous nature of the drugs).
- Providers to present on barriers to implementing different standards.